

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 1-4, 8-17, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 34, 38-40, and 42-49 are pending. Claims 46-49 are newly added. Claims 1, 8, 12, 15, 17, 19, 34, 39, 40, 42, and 44 are amended. Support for the amendments to Claims 8, 12, 15, 19, 34, 39, 40, 42, and 44 is self-evident. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 can be found in now-canceled Claim 41, for example, which was indicated in the outstanding Office Action as reciting allowable subject matter. Support for the amendment to Claim 17 can be found in Figs. 11A and 12B and the description in the specification thereof. Support for new Claims 46-49 can be found in Figs. 11A-12B and Fig. 1, for example. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4, 8-19, 22, 25-27, 34, 35, and 38-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1-3, 16, 25, and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Naoki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,074,487). Claims 17, 27, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Affinito (U.S. Patent No. 6,207,239). Claims 4, 8-10, 12-15, 26, 34, 35, 39, 40, and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Sun et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,409,839). Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Naoki, Sun, and Zhao et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. 2003/0033978). Claim 43 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Naoki, Sun, and Affinito. Claims 18, 19, 22, 23, and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Affinito in view of Sun. Claim 41 was indicated as reciting allowable subject matter.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claim 41 recites allowable subject matter.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1 and 17 under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, that rejection is respectfully traversed as follows.

The term “source material supply line” recited in the previous versions of Claims 1 and 17 means a line for supplying a gas from the vaporizer to a process chamber or the like. In one example, this line is represented by a line (141) shown in Figs. 1 and 21. However, to advance prosecution, Claims 1 and 17 are amended to recite the alternative term “gas feed line,” which is closer to the original term used in the specification. In an example provided in the figures, the gas feed line recited in the claims corresponds to the line (141). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 1 and 17 as failing to comply with the written description requirement is overcome.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 41, that rejection is respectfully traversed as follows. On page 3, the outstanding Office Action states that “the spacer is the heat transfer member.” Regarding Claim 41, the relationship between the shield plate (134), filter member (133), spacers (136), and **heat transfer portions** (135) is described in [0088] of US 2007/0101940 and is shown in Fig. 1. Applicants previously cited paragraph [0083] for support for the features of Claim 41, but the features are more clearly supported by paragraph [0088]. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 41 (and Claim 1 to the extent Claim 1 recites the features of now-canceled Claim 41) has been overcome.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-3, 16, 25, and 38 as anticipated by Naoki, that rejection is respectfully traversed as follows. Independent Claim 1 is amended to recite all of the features of Claim 41, and Claim 41 is canceled. Claim 41 was indicated as reciting allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over the cited references.

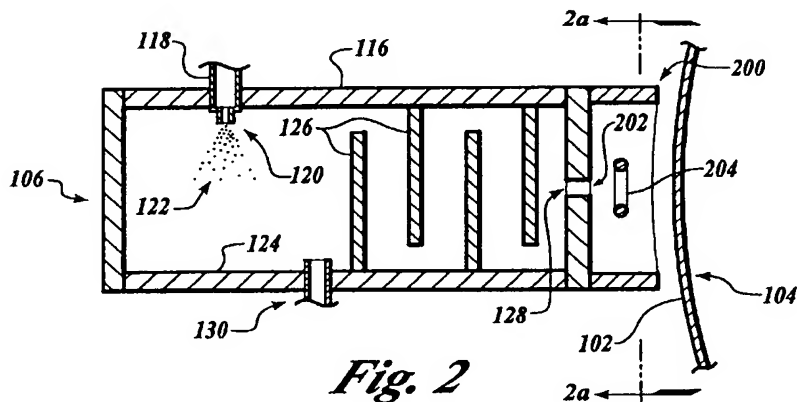
Regarding the rejection of Claims 17, 27, and 44 as anticipated by Affinito, that rejection is respectfully traversed by the present response.

Claim 17 has been amended to clarify the relationship of the wall, plate member, heater, and heat transfer columns. Amended Claim 17 recites, in part:

a plurality of heat transfer columns extending from the second face of the plate member to the wall and configured to transfer heat to the gas material flowing through the gas passage to vaporize residual mist, the heat transfer columns being distributed in the gas passage.

In one example from the figures, the relationship of these members is represented by the relationship of portions (171), (172), (172H), and (172p) shown in Fig. 11B, which are combined in a specific manner.

The arrangement recited in amended Claim 17 contrasts with the structure of Affinito around portions (126) and (128) shown in Fig. 2 and cited on page 6 of the outstanding Office Action against Claim 17. Specifically, Affinito includes no portions corresponding to the heat transfer columns (172p) recited in amended Claim 17, which extend from the plate member (172) to the wall (171) around the gas outlet. The outstanding Office Action cites the baffle (126) of Affinito for the plate member recited in Claim 17.¹ However, as shown in Fig. 2 of Affinito below, the baffles (126) do not have a plurality of heat transfer columns extending from them. In contrast, amended Claim 17 recites a plurality of heat transfer columns extending from the second face of the plate member to the wall.



¹ Outstanding Office Action, page 6.

Therefore, the arrangement recited in amended Claim 17 patentably distinguishes over Affinito for at least the reasons discussed above.

Sun, Naoki, and Zhao fail to remedy the deficiencies discussed above regarding Affinito, and no reasonable combination of the cited references would include all the features recited in amended independent Claim 17 or any of the claims depending therefrom.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-4, 8-17, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 34, 38-40, and 42-49 is earnestly solicited.

Should Examiner Chen deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, he is encouraged to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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